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Governor Martin O'Malley Hosts Maryland Mayors Association Reception

February 7th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Last night, Governor O'Malley invited mayors from across Maryland to kick off the Maryland Mayor's Association's Legislative Conference at Government House in Annapolis. More than 50 municipal executives joined the Governor for a reception in the Governor's residence to highlight better choices for stronger Maryland communities.

"We've faced some pretty tough times over the last seven years. Together, we've made the choice to move our State forward, not back," **said Governor Martin O'Malley**. "In spite of these challenges, our mayors have stepped up and pitched in, partnering on a number of initiatives with our agencies and ensuring that our State is stronger than it was before the recession."

"Maryland is a great state because of the work we do together to strengthen our communities and expand opportunity," **said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "We've made great progress, but our success would not have been possible without the partnership and hard work of our Mayors leading at the local level. Whether it's supporting local businesses or ensuring residents have access to public services, Mayors in cities and towns across our state make Maryland a better place to live, work and raise a family."

Over the last seven years, the O'Malley-Brown administration has worked in partnership with mayors on numerous projects in local jurisdictions all over the State. The Community Legacy program has provided nearly \$17 million in funds for over 200 projects in municipalities. Additionally, the State's Main Street program has facilitated the creation of nearly 1,200 new businesses and 4,190 new jobs in 26 cities and towns across Maryland.

"On behalf of the MMA, I would like to thank Governor O'Malley for once again hosting our yearly reception at the Government House. This event affords the Mayors of our great State the opportunity to voice our concerns to the Governor and lobby for ourselves and our municipalities here in Annapolis. We appreciate the Governor providing us the venue to do so," **said Mayor Randy McClement of Frederick**.

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"The O'Malley-Brown administration has supported progressive smart growth strategies over the last seven years. For Capitol Heights this has meant the acceleration of our TOD strategy utilizing Community Legacy funds. We are proud to announce the Town is in the process of selecting a developer for a mixed-use, sustainable development at the Capitol Heights Metro station. Governor O'Malley has been a tremendous partner in our overall revitalization efforts," **added Mayor Kito James of Capitol Heights.**

The O'Malley-Brown Administration continues to foster partnerships with municipal law enforcement agencies to drive down violent crime. Working together, state and local law enforcement agencies have driven down violent crime to 30-year lows. The FY15 budget includes an increase of \$16 million in funding for transportation for municipalities and an additional \$68 million in police aid. The Governor's Safe Streets initiative has driven drive down crime by promoting community partnerships, strategic action and investments in needed equipment for law enforcement personnel.

"Under the leadership of Governor O'Malley, the Safe Streets initiative, and \$1.2 million in investment, the City of Salisbury has seen an almost 50 percent drop in violent crime over the last seven years. Without the commitment of the Governor, and his willingness to see this through, our strong partnership to fight crime would be non-existent, and we would not see the successes that we have seen to date," **said Mayor Jim Ireton of Salisbury.**

The Governor's FY15 budget builds on seven years of record investments in education to the tune of \$6.1 billion since FY2008. Also, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has bolstered efforts to reduce the number of temporary learning shacks around the State, investing \$2.7 billion in school construction funding over the last seven years. These better choices have led to better results, propelling Maryland to the head of the class in national school rankings and AP scores, while also sparking historic graduation rates for Maryland high schoolers.

Cumberland Mayor Brian K. Grim added, "Governor O'Malley is a model leader for working together with local government to make necessary projects come to fruition. If not for our Governor, Cumberland would still be struggling to band-aid together the oldest functioning high school in Maryland. But thanks to the Governor, funding is in place and our community is building a new, state-of-the-art educational facility in Cumberland. That speaks to Martin O'Malley's dedication to education and it speaks to his desire to work with local leaders to solve problems."

"From education to public safety, and through the toughest of times, Governor O'Malley has supported our efforts to build stronger communities for our neighbors. Mayors are on the frontlines of public service and having a strong partner in the State House ensures that we better serve our neighbors and create thriving communities to live, work and play," **Mayor Jeffrey Slavin of Somerset said.**



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Governor O'Malley Unveils Technology to Combat Contraband Cell Phones at Baltimore City Detention Center

February 7th, 2014

Baltimore, MD — Governor Martin O'Malley visited the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC) today to introduce the newest tool in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services battle against contraband cell phones behind prison walls: Managed Access technology, which blocks all illegal and unauthorized cell calls within the correctional facility's walls.

The system is seen as a critical tool that will keep criminals from carrying out illegal activity behind bars. A product of Tecore, a Maryland-based company, Managed Access automatically differentiates between authorized and unauthorized cellular devices within a target area. Callers hear a recorded message alerting them that their call cannot be completed due to the unauthorized cellular device they are attempting to use. The system works without staff involvement or "jamming" of wireless signals.

Unlike cell phone "jamming," Managed Access does not interfere with calls made from outside the prison walls, and thus does not violate federal law. It also does not interfere with emergency calls made from any cell phone.

After a Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) pilot at nearby Metropolitan Transition Center yielded very favorable results—nearly eliminating the cell phone problems at that facility—DPSCS sought to purchase the same technology for BCDC.

"For the last seven years, our administration has worked to put Maryland on the front lines of the national fight against contraband cell phones," said Governor O'Malley. "This technology arms our dedicated correctional staff with additional tools they need to crack down on cell phones in our facilities, protect integrity and ensure the safety and security of our correctional system."

"This is a significant step in making our facility safer for staff, detainees, and inmates," said DPSCS Secretary Gregg Hershberger, who praised the Governor and legislature for their help in providing vast improvements for BCDC security, which have included a large network of digital cameras, more intelligence officers and detectives, and better technology.

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DPSCS has been a national leader in the battle against contraband cell phones. Under Governor O'Malley's leadership, DPSCS has implemented several innovative approaches to increasing cell phone interdiction. These include investing \$1.1 million in facility entrance technology; using cell phone sniffing dogs trained by its own K9 unit; fighting for legislation to increase penalties for those caught smuggling cell phones into prison; and forming partnerships with state's attorneys to prosecute offenders caught with cell phones.

"In many ways, Maryland was an early leader in the battle against cell phones inside correctional institutions. They set the standard," said James Gondles, Executive Director of the American Correctional Association. "Pushing forward with this kind of cellular detection technology definitely keeps DPSCS in forefront on this issue, and exemplifies their commitment to keeping their institutions among the safest in the country."

Former DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard began the cell phone interdiction in earnest in 2007. "As soon as we recognized the scope of the problem, we made sure to start attacking it on multiple fronts. There is no single solution, but this technology is certainly a critical tool," said Mr. Maynard.

Since FY2007, DPSCS has significantly driven down serious assaults against both staff (60%) and inmates (53%) since 2007. In FY 2013, at 874 the number of cell phones confiscated inside DPSCS correctional facilities fell below 1,000 for the first time since FY2007, evidence that DPSCS' multi-faceted approach to combating this issue has worked to make our institutions safer and more secure. Managed Access is yet another tool Maryland is using to create one of the safest prison systems in the country.



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Governor O'Malley Announces \$500,000 Investment in SalesWarp from InvestMaryland

February 10th, 2014

BALTIMORE, MD – SalesWarp, a Baltimore-based provider of e-commerce management software, has received a \$500,000 investment from the State's *InvestMaryland* program, the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) announced today. A public-private partnership between the State and venture capital firms, InvestMaryland raised \$84 million to reinvigorate the State-run Maryland Venture Fund (MVF) and support the growth of young Maryland companies in biotechnology, cybersecurity, e-commerce and other high-growth industries. The funding, through the Maryland Venture Fund, led SalesWarp's fundraising round and will be used to grow the company's innovative line of products.

"Entrepreneurs, startup companies and small businesses play a critical role in the growth of Maryland's economy. They are the engine that drives innovation and discovery while creating the family-supporting jobs of today and tomorrow," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "We are proud to make this investment in SalesWarp and we look forward to their success in Maryland's growing community of exciting high-tech startups."

"We are thrilled to have this commitment from the Maryland Venture Fund," said David Potts, Founder and CEO of SalesWarp. "Beyond the funding, MVF also brings many connections and skills that will help us achieve our 2014 goals and grow our team here in Maryland. We're using this funding to expand our market share nationally, meet rising customer demand and continued innovation of our product lines to propel growth."

SalesWarp, a retailer's mission control center, has experienced strong growth the past two years by serving both enterprise and emerging online retailers. A budding 12-person company located in Baltimore's Emerging Technology Center, SalesWarp expects its staff to grow to 25 by the end of 2015. Much of the company's growth can be attributed to its partner strategy and integrations with leading eCommerce firms, including shopping carts (Magento, Volusion, Demandware, osCommerce), online marketplaces (Amazon, eBay, Rakuten), accounting (Quickbooks, Peachtree) and shipping software (Shipworks, iabol, Shipstation).

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Created by Governor O'Malley and passed by the General Assembly in 2011, InvestMaryland is the largest venture capital investment initiative in Maryland's history. In March 2012, the State raised \$84 million for the program through an online auction of tax credits to Maryland insurance companies. Two-thirds of the funding – \$56 million – is being managed by carefully screened private venture firms that will invest the funds and, if successful, return 100% of the principal and 80% of the profits to the State's general fund. The remaining third of the InvestMaryland capital is largely allocated to direct investments by the state-run Maryland Venture Fund.

The Maryland Venture Fund is a regionally recognized leader in seed and early-stage investing and a national model for state-supported investment programs. With nearly two decades of experience and numerous successful investments, MVF invests in highly innovative technology companies across the full range of industry sectors including software, communications, cybersecurity and life sciences companies in the areas of healthcare IT, medical devices and diagnostics.

About DBED:

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. Because they are major economic generators, the Department also supports the Arts, film production, sports and other special events. For more information, visit www.choosemaryland.org.



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Maryland Makes it Eight Years in a Row as Number One in Advanced Placement Success

February 11th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS

— Maryland students have led the nation in success on the Advanced Placement (AP) exams for eight straight years, according to a new report from the College Board.

The percentage of Maryland seniors who earned a score of 3 or higher on one or more AP exams reached 29.6 in

2013, the highest percentage in the nation and an increase over the 28.1 percent tallied in 2012, according to the College Board's "10th Annual AP Report to the Nation." A score of 3 or better is the threshold at which many higher education institutions award college credit for high school students in an AP assessment.

Connecticut is ranked second in success, with 28.8 percent of its seniors earning a 3 or higher, followed by Virginia, with 28.3 percent.

The College Board said that Maryland "has led the nation in improving student access and supporting student performance in AP." The percentage of Maryland graduates scoring a 3 or higher on an AP test has increased nearly 12 percent points from 17.7 percent in 2003.



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“Strengthening and growing the middle class is the North Star of everything we do as an Administration. And because there is no greater ladder to opportunity than education, we’ve made the better choice to invest in our children — today’s results are another indication that our choices are paying off,” said **Governor Martin O’Malley**. “The AP program offers one of the most important pathways to a better future, and we are committed to preparing our students for college and career success globally. Our hardworking students, dedicated educators, and outstanding parents deserve our congratulations and support.”

Trevor Packer, the College Board’s senior vice president who leads the Advanced Placement program, said that Maryland’s number one ranking is clearly a team effort.

“The state’s legislators and educators are obviously deeply committed to broadening AP access while increasing AP Exam performance,” **Packer** said. “We congratulate Maryland on their successes and encourage them as they move forward to ensure that all students have the same opportunity to reach their full potential.”

The percentage of Maryland graduates taking an AP exam has nearly doubled over the past decade. In 2003, 25.7 percent of Maryland graduates had taken at least one AP exam during their high school career. By 2013, nearly half of all graduates had taken one of the rigorous exams—47.4 percent. Only the District of Columbia (55.7 percent) and Florida (53.1 percent) had a higher rate of participation.

“Maryland schools are focused on preparing our graduates for higher education or career, and the AP program provides students with a strong foundation upon which to build,” said **State Superintendent of Schools Lillian Lowery**. “Our students continue to make steady progress, but there is plenty of room for improvement. We must eliminate gaps in achievement between student subgroups, making certain all of our students have the best opportunities.”

“The 10th Annual Advanced Placement Report to the Nation,” the College Board’s analysis of the college-level assessment program, gives many high marks to efforts taking place in Maryland schools. For example:

- Maryland has seen a big increase in the percentage of Black/African American students having success on the AP assessments, as 11.7 percent of students receiving a grade of 3 or better in Maryland were Black/African American. That percentage ranks third to Mississippi (13.6) and Louisiana (12.2) among states in the nation. The percentage of Black/African American test takers is also increasing.
- Hispanic students in Maryland continue to perform well on the AP exams. Hispanics accounted for 9.3 percent of the Maryland graduating class last year, and 8.8 percent of the seniors who scored 3 or higher on the AP exam were Hispanic.
- In raw numbers, there were 13,315 Maryland students who took an AP exam in high school in 2003, and 9,184 received a 3 or better. By last year, 27,370 students took an AP exam, and 17,111 scored a 3 or better.

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program, which began in 1955, allows students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Students of

different interests and backgrounds can choose from more than 30 courses to demonstrate their knowledge of rigorous academic curriculum. Complete results are available at <http://apreport.collegeboard.org>.



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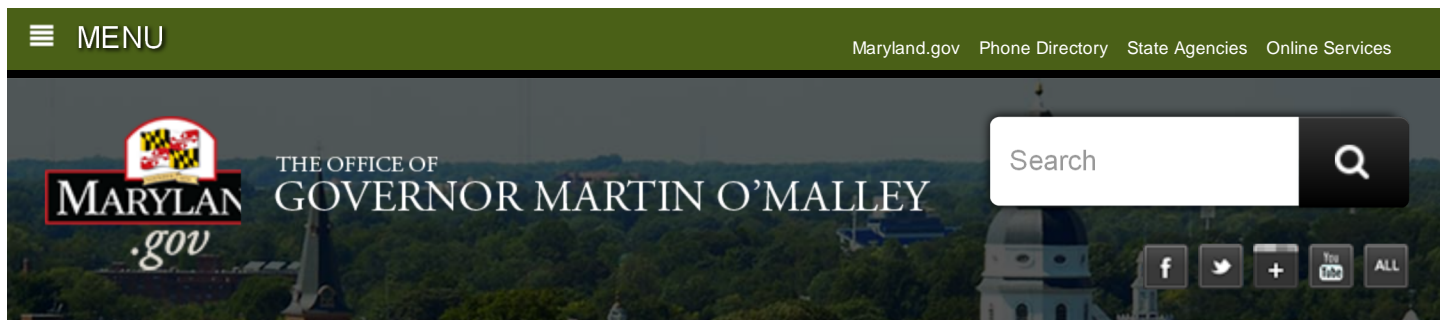
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Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on the Environmental Protection Agency's Defense of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL

February 12th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley issued the following statement today on Maryland's amicus brief to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit:

"As we continue to make great strides in restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay, it is critical that we protect our hard-won progress. As a result, I have asked the Attorney General to submit an amicus brief to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in support of the Environmental Protection Agency's defense of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL."

"While we have accomplished much, there is still more work to be done and it is imperative that we continue our efforts to ensure that our nation's largest estuary, a true national treasure, will be protected for future generations. As Chair of the Chesapeake Executive Council, I am encouraging the other states in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to join Maryland and support the EPA in this effort."



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Federal, State and Local Officials Sign Agreement to Further Develop National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

February 18th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, Acting Undersecretary of Commerce Dr. Patrick Gallagher, Governor Martin O'Malley, and Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett today signed a Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) to more clearly define further the development of the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE). The agreement expands on the collaboration outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding – signed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the State of Maryland and Montgomery County in February 2012 – establishing the NCCoE.

“We’re standing up for the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence to protect America’s ideas and innovations from cyber terrorists, spies and thieves,” said **Senator Mikulski, Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee that funds NIST**. “With Maryland’s world-class educational institutions, leading federal assets and dynamic private sector, our state is the epicenter of cyber security. This center will unite the knowledge of the government with the know-how of the private sector to improve our nation’s cyber security and create jobs. I was so proud to put money in the federal checkbook so this new center will ensure Maryland continues to lead the way in cyber technology and cyber jobs.”

“This agreement formalizes and expands the commitment that the state, county, and NIST have made to collaborate on helping businesses in a variety of sectors improve their cybersecurity,” said **Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and NIST Director Patrick D. Gallagher**. “We believe it will lead to greater technology transfer, new technologies and products, and opportunities for students—the future cybersecurity workforce.”

“Four years ago, we set out to position our State as the epicenter of cybersecurity, and today, this growing sector is producing high-quality jobs for Maryland families,” said **Governor O’Malley**. “This agreement builds on significant progress for the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence, bringing together our companies, our educational institutions and our government to support critical and personal data protection nationally, while also spurring economic growth by expanding Maryland’s middle class.”

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The Center was one of the priority recommendations outlined in *CyberMaryland: Epicenter for Information Security and Innovation*, released by Governor O'Malley on January 11, 2010. A public-private partnership, the NCCoE was established to accelerate the broad adoption of integrated cybersecurity tools and technologies. Through the National Cybersecurity Excellence Partnership, 16 companies – including Cisco Systems, McAfee, Microsoft, RSA and Symantec – have agreed to provide hardware, software and expertise to the Center's efforts to advance the rapid adoption of secure technologies.

The Center, which has been temporarily housed in the Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research on the campus of the Universities at Shady Grove, will move to a 65,000 square foot building on Seneca Highway in Rockville. The State of Maryland and Montgomery County are providing funding to renovate the facility, which is owned by the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO).

"This partnership agreement between NIST, Maryland and Montgomery County clearly marks Montgomery County Maryland as a viable national player in civil cybersecurity," said **County Executive Ike Leggett**. "I thank Senator Mikulski for her leadership on this issue and Governor O'Malley for his continuing support of our efforts to grow even more business and create the jobs of tomorrow for Montgomery County."



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Maryland Second in the Nation in LEED Green Building Activity

February 18th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Today, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) announced that Maryland placed second in its ranking of the Top 10 States for LEED.

The list highlights the regions around the country leading the movement for sustainable building design, construction and operation. Utilizing less energy and water, LEED-certified spaces save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce carbon emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

“Here in Maryland, we’ve committed to developing and implementing environmentally smart building practices over the last seven years because green development saves money and is good for the environment,” said **Governor Martin O’Malley**. “We’ve made tremendous progress, but there is still more work to do. By using LEED standards as a benchmark, we’ll continue to build on Maryland’s reputation as a leader in creating a greener, more sustainable environment for future generations.”

“In the face of the extraordinary global challenge of climate change, our national imperative to create resource-efficient and cost-effective green buildings has never been greater,” said **Rick Fedrizzi, president, CEO and founding chair, USGBC**. “Maryland has a strong base of dedicated individuals who are using LEED to transform its built infrastructure into high-performing spaces that promote the health of our planet and the people who use these buildings each and every day.”

“Maryland is truly a leader for green building, and it’s rewarding to make the top 10 list,” said **Mary Pulcinella, executive director, USGBC Maryland Chapter**. “However, being recognized is not the end goal — we still hope to see more widespread implementation of green building practices and look forward to the innovative ideas coming from our industry leaders and inspired entrepreneurs.”

The per-capita list is based on 2010 U.S. Census data and includes commercial and institutional green building projects that were certified throughout 2013. Maryland certified 119 projects representing 12,696,429 square feet of real estate, or 2.20 square feet per resident, in 2013.

USGBC calculates the list using per-capita figures as a measure of the human

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element of green building, allowing for a fair comparison of the level of green building taking place among states with significant differences in population and, accordingly, number of overall buildings.

A few notable projects that certified in Maryland in 2013 include:

- M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, home of the Baltimore Ravens, LEED Gold
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Center for Weather and Climate Prediction in College Park, designed by USGBC Platinum Member HOK, LEED Gold
- Perdue Corporate Headquarters in Salisbury, LEED Platinum, the first LEED Platinum building in Maryland's Eastern Shore
- Navy Medical Research Center's Biological Defense Research Directorate at Fort Detrick in Frederick, LEED Gold
- White Oak Community Recreation Center in Silver Spring, LEED Gold
- USGBC Platinum Member Skanska's Rockville office, LEED Gold
- Paint Branch High School in Burtonsville, LEED Gold

The full ranking of the top 10 states includes:

Rank	State	Projects certified in 2013	Square feet LEED certified in 2013	Per-capita square footage
1	Illinois	171	29,415,284	2.29
2	Maryland	119	12,696,429	2.20
3	Virginia	160	16,868,693	2.11
4	Massachusetts	101	13,684,430	2.09
5 (tie)	New York	259	37,839,395	1.95
5 (tie)	California	595	72,729,476	1.95
6	Oregon	47	6,991,942	1.83
7	North Carolina	133	17,183,099	1.80
8	Colorado	124	8,894,187	1.77
9	Hawaii	17	2,323,379	1.71
10	Minnesota	51	8,205,155	1.55
*	Washington, D.C.	106	19,524,216	32.45

*Washington, D.C., is not ranked as it is a federal district, not a state.

Collectively, 1,777 commercial and institutional projects became LEED certified within the top 10 states in 2013, representing 226.8 million square feet of real estate. Worldwide, 4,642 projects were certified in 2013, representing 596.8 million square feet.

More than 20,000 projects representing 2.9 billion square feet of space have been LEED-certified worldwide, with another 37,000 projects representing 7.6 billion square feet in the pipeline for certification.

About the U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to a prosperous and

sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building program, robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, the Center for Green Schools and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For more information, visit usgbc.org, explore the Green Building Information Gateway (GBIG) and connect on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

About LEED

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction, maintenance and operations of green buildings. Every day, more than 1.5 million square feet of space is certified using LEED. More than 57,000 commercial and institutional projects are currently participating in LEED, comprising 10.5 billion square feet of construction space in 147 countries and territories. In addition, more than 50,000 residential units have been certified under the LEED for Homes rating system. Learn more at usgbc.org/LEED.



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Governor O'Malley Releases Statement on Maryland's Triple AAA Bond Rating Retention

February 20th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley today issued the following statement in response to Maryland's Triple AAA bond rating retention from all three major ratings agencies:

"The top bond rating agencies reaffirmed Maryland's AAA bond rating, once again showing that our fiscally-responsible approach to governing is working."

"Since 2007, together we've cut over \$9 billion in spending, shrank the executive branch to the smallest per capita levels since the 1970s, and put our state on the verge of eliminating the \$1.7 billion structural deficit we inherited."

"We've done all this while investing record amounts in schools, which has led to the #1 rated public schools in America. We've invested in college affordability, and the College Board says we've done more than any other state to hold down the cost of college tuition. We've invested in public safety, and, together with law enforcement, we've driven down violent crime to 30 year lows."

"Our better choices have led to better results. And today, Maryland has secured its position as one of only ten states to hold the Triple AAA rating from all three rating agencies, and one of only seven states to maintain that rating through the Great Recession."



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Governor O'Malley Takes Effort to Raise Maryland's Minimum Wage to the White House

February 21st, 2014

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Governor O'Malley — along with Governors Inslee (Wash.), Malloy (Conn.), and Quinn (Ill.) — met with Vice President Biden, and other officials at the White House today to discuss efforts to expand opportunity and strengthen the middle class by raising the minimum wage.

Governor O'Malley has made raising the wage a top priority for the 2014 state legislative session. In the proposal, Maryland's minimum wage of \$7.25 would increase incrementally to \$10.10 in July 2016. The proposal secures the value of the minimum wage by tying future increases to inflation.

"Over the last seven years, we've made the better choice to strengthen and grow our middle class by investing in Maryland's #1 public schools, 21st century innovation, and modern infrastructure. Today, we continue our fight to expand opportunity increasing our State's minimum wage," said **Governor O'Malley**. "Nobody who works hard and plays by the rules should have to live in poverty. Raising the minimum wage would lift the incomes of 455,000 Maryland workers across our State, and millions more at the national level. That's why it's critical that we give hardworking families the raise they deserve."

Vice President Biden, joined by Secretary of Labor Tom Perez, Director of the National Economic Council Gene Sperling, and a number of high-ranking Cabinet and White House officials, praised the Governor's efforts to increase Maryland's minimum wage saying, "Governor O'Malley is doing extraordinary work in Maryland to lift their minimum wage and give more hardworking Americans a raise."

Mary Kay Henry of SEIU, Olivia Morgan from the Shriver Report, along with representatives from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Center for American Progress joined the conversation which touched on two policy studies out of the University of Massachusetts and Princeton University. Both studies found that an increase to the minimum wage would have no adverse effect on employment rates when examining similar increases in local jurisdictions.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, raising Maryland's minimum wage would benefit 455,000 workers in Maryland, stimulate \$456 million in new economic

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activity during the phase-in period, and generate or support 1,600 new jobs for the State.

Currently there are 21 states, including the District of Columbia, with minimum wage rates higher than the federal rate of \$7.25 per hour. New Jersey's minimum wage is \$8.25 and New York's is \$8.00; the Pew Center for the States ranked both states in the top 3 for economic mobility, along with Maryland.

President Obama recently issued an executive order increasing the minimum wage for federal contractors to \$10.10. According to a recent study by the University of Massachusetts, raising the federal wage would driven down the national poverty rate by 1.7 percent, or 4.6 million Americans. Raising the wage by 2015 would increase GDP by about \$32 billion and create 140,000 new jobs for the American economy.



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Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown Announce 16 New Training Partners to Support Local Jobs on the Purple Line and the Red Line Transit Projects

February 21st, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – As part of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's ongoing efforts to expand job opportunities to more Marylanders, Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the selection of 16 "Preferred Training Partners" for the Purple Line and the Red Line light rail projects. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's (DLLR) Preferred Training Partner Program is a joint effort to prepare and link "opportunity ready" residents in each project corridor directly to the contractors selected to design, build, operate and maintain the Purple Line and the Red Line.

"Maryland is committed to ensuring local residents have the opportunity to help build the next generation of transit in their own communities," said Governor O'Malley.

"This program is the key to giving these residents the skills today that they will need tomorrow to qualify for jobs on the Purple Line and the Red Line projects. The Preferred Training Partners Program is one more example of how we are working together to strengthen our middle class through good-paying, family-supporting jobs across our great state."

"Maryland has the best trained and most capable workforce in the country," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "By selecting these Preferred Training Partners, we're giving more Marylanders the opportunity to become a part of that workforce so they can secure a family-supporting, Middle Class job. The Purple and Red Lines, which are going to create more than 6,800 jobs, are the next step in building a modern transportation network that supports our growing economy. Through this program, our workers will build these projects, and have the skills to compete for new jobs in the future."

MTA will be working with these organizations to connect the newly skilled workers with the Purple Line and the Red Line contractors, maximizing the number of local residents benefitting from employment on these two light rail transit projects valued at \$4.8 billion combined. The Preferred Training Partner Program will be closely linked to Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown's EARN

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(Employment Advancement Right Now) Maryland initiative managed by DLLR.

Through this program, local residents will have access to a wide range of training in essential trades from carpentry and electrical work to plumbing and iron work, making them eligible for important apprenticeship programs and certifications. Providing a broad spectrum of training options, the selected partners include numerous organizations and educational centers from the Community College of Baltimore County and the Center for Urban Families to Mid-Atlantic Carpenter's Training Centers and the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486.

MTA/DLLR selected these organizations for their demonstrated track record of success with education and training programs and/or the ability to reach into economically- and socially- disadvantaged communities. These Preferred Training Partners are geographically and programmatically diverse and aim to serve entry-level, semi-skilled and skilled positions in both corridors. See the attached list of Preferred Training Partners that are located along the Purple Line and the Red Line corridors in the Washington and Baltimore regions and the training programs they offer at this link: <http://1.usa.gov/1dYN2e7>.

"The Preferred Training Partner Program is essential to ensuring that the Red Line and Purple Line projects will not only create good jobs for Marylanders but lifelong careers," said Congressman Elijah E. Cummings. "The skills residents will learn will enable them to compete for important infrastructure projects for years to come, from transit and highway projects to water and wastewater projects."

As Preferred Training Partners, these agencies and organizations will be given priority for transportation-related workforce development grants, will have access to technical assistance and consulting services, and will be provided with direct access to project contractors once selected.

"With the help of the Preferred Training Partners, MTA will be able to connect local residents with contractors on these rail projects and also will help contractors meet the goal of hiring economically and socially-disadvantaged persons for these projects," said MTA Administrator Robert L. Smith.

About Purple Line/Red Line: The Purple Line is a 16-mile light rail line with 21 stations between Bethesda and New Carrollton. Construction on the Purple Line could begin in spring 2015. The Red Line is a 14-mile light rail line with 19 stations between Woodlawn, Downtown Baltimore and Johns Hopkins Bayview; five of the stations in the downtown area are underground stations. For more information on the Purple Line and the Red Line, visit the project websites at: www.mta.maryland.gov/transit-projects.

For the latest information on MTA service, passengers are urged to check the MTA website at www.mta.maryland.gov. Customers can also call the MTA Transit Information Contact Center Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. at [410-539-5000](tel:410-539-5000). TTY [410-539-3497](tel:410-539-3497). To sign up for email about service modifications and delays, go to www.mta.maryland.gov/enotifications. Visit MTA's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mtamaryland> or Twitter feed at <http://twitter.com/mtamaryland> for more sources of updated information.



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Governor O'Malley Announces Judicial Appointments

February 24th, 2014

Annapolis, Md. – Governor O'Malley announced today the appointment of twenty-three judges who will serve across Maryland. The twenty-three men and women appointed represent the geographic and ethnic diversity of the State of Maryland, and all the appointees share in common their exceptional qualifications to serve as judges in our state.

"The appointment of judges is one of the most important responsibilities of any chief executive," **said Governor O'Malley.** "I take this responsibility seriously, and am pleased to announce today the appointment of twenty-three highly qualified, diverse candidates from across the State to serve on Maryland's bench."

Governor O'Malley interviewed every candidate recommended by the trial court and appellate judicial nominating commissions. All of the judges appointed were recommended by the commissions.

Governor O'Malley announced the appointment of three judges to the **Court of Special Appeals.**

Judge Michael Wilson Reed has served on the Circuit Court for Baltimore City since 2011. Prior to his appointment to the Circuit Court bench, Judge Reed practiced as a litigator for over twenty years in both the public and private sectors. His public service included five years as an Assistant Attorney General at the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene and eleven years as an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City. Judge Reed is the President-Elect of the Bar Association of Baltimore City. He earned a law degree from George Washington University's National Law Center and an undergraduate degree from College of the Holy Cross.

Andrea Margaretta Leahy-Fuckeck has been a partner with the firm of Leahy & DeSmet, LLC since 2006. Previously, she served as Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Parris Glendening, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, Associate County Attorney for Prince George's County, and Of Counsel at Whiteford Taylor Preston LLP. Ms. Leahy-Fuckeck also served as a member of the State Ethics Commission and was twice named as one of the Daily Record's Top 100

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Women. She earned a law degree from American University's Washington College of Law and a bachelor of arts from Catholic University.

Kevin Francis Arthur is a principal with Kramon & Graham PA, where he has spent his entire legal career. Mr. Arthur has represented clients in state and federal courts throughout the United States, in regulatory proceedings before state and federal agencies, and in arbitration cases, including cases before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. He has also served on bar committees examining best practices in civil pattern jury instructions and appellate advocacy, and he is the current chair of the Maryland State Bar Association's Committee on Laws. Mr. Arthur earned a law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and an undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Governor O'Malley made five appointments to the **Circuit Court for Baltimore City**.

Judge Shannon Avery has served on the District Court for Baltimore City since 2010. Judge Avery has spent her entire legal career in public service, including as Executive Director of the Office of Planning, Policy, Regulations and Statistics at the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Appeals Division; Special Assistant State's Attorney in Montgomery County; and Assistant Public Defender in the Appellate Division. She earned a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law and an undergraduate degree from Towson University.

Judge Melissa Kaye Copeland has served on the District Court for Baltimore City since 2012. Prior to that appointment, she worked as an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City. She spent her last seven years in that office serving as Deputy Division Chief of the Narcotics Division and received numerous awards from federal and local law enforcement agencies. Judge Copeland is a former secretary of the Monumental Bar Association, and she began her legal career as a law clerk for the Honorable Bonita Dancy of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Judge Copeland earned a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law and an undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Judge Karen Friedman has served on the District Court for Baltimore City since 2010. Prior to that appointment, she spent nine years as a Judge on the Orphans' Court of Baltimore City and several years at Willner and Associates practicing family law. Judge Friedman has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Baltimore City Bench/Bar Committee, the Simon Sobeloff Law Society, and the National Association of Women Judges. She earned a law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and an undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Michael Anthony DiPietro has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland in the Civil Division since 2000. In that position, he has worked on numerous cases under the False Claims Act, and he received a Department of Justice award for his work related to wartime contracting. Previously, he served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Investigations Division and an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore County. Mr. DiPietro earned a law degree

from the University of Baltimore School of Law and an undergraduate degree from Loyola University.

Cynthia Holly Jones is an Assistant Commissioner of Enforcement and Services in the Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation at the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. Previously, she served as Deputy State's Attorney for investigations in Baltimore City, as an assistant to the Baltimore City Comptroller and Board of Estimates, and as a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Bureau. Ms. Jones began her career as a middle school teacher. She earned a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law and an undergraduate degree from Chatham College.

For the **Circuit Court for Baltimore County**, Governor O'Malley has appointed three individuals to serve as trial court judges.

Colleen Ann Cavanaugh has served for the past seven years as a judge for the Orphans' Court of Baltimore County, including as Chief Judge from 2007 to 2009. Judge Cavanaugh has also worked in private practice for over twenty years, where she has specialized most recently in family law and civil litigation. She received a law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and an undergraduate degree from American University. Judge Cavanaugh serves on the Board of Directors of Turn Around, Inc., an organization which provides counseling and support services to individuals affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Julie Glass is a Division Chief with the State's Attorney's Office for Baltimore City. She previously served as Division Chief of the Firearms Investigation and Violence Enforcement Unit, Co-Leader of the Gang Initiative Enforcement Section, Team Captain of the Felony Narcotics Division, and a homicide prosecutor. Ms. Glass graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law and the University of Delaware.

Paul Joseph Hanley has served for the past 18 years as a Master in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Matters in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. Until 2008, Mr. Hanley also maintained a diverse private practice, focused primarily in domestic relations, real estate, estate planning, consumer bankruptcy, and personal injury matters. Mr. Hanley graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law and Loyola College of Maryland.

For the **Circuit Court for Charles County**, Governor O'Malley has appointed **Hayward James "Jay" West**. Since 2005, Mr. West has practiced with the law firm Alpert Schreyer, LLC, representing clients in both civil and criminal matters. He received a law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and an undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, College Park. Prior to earning his degrees, Mr. West served as an Intelligence Analyst in the United States Army and a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. Mr. West is a member of the Board of Directors and former President of The Jude House Inc., an organization providing services to individuals struggling with chemical dependencies.

Governor O'Malley elevated **Judge Audrey Creighton** to the **Circuit Court for**

Montgomery County. Since 2010, **Judge Audrey Creighton** has served on the District Court for Montgomery County. She previously served as an Assistant Public Defender for Montgomery County, where she received numerous awards for outstanding service. She also worked as an Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Appeals Division, an associate at Rabineau & Peregoff, and a law clerk to the Honorable Richard Gilbert of the Court of Special Appeals. Judge Creighton has been a member of the Sixth Judicial Circuit's Character Committee for the past six years and was a former president of the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association. She earned a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law and an undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

For the **Circuit Court for Prince George's County**, Governor O'Malley has elevated **District Court Judge Lawrence Vincent Hill Jr.** Judge Hill has served as a District Court judge since 2008. He previously worked in the Office of the Public Defender and in private practice. Judge Hill graduated from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and Hampton University.

For the **Circuit Court for Wicomico County**, Governor O'Malley has appointed **Spyros James "Jimmy" Sarbanes**. Mr. Sarbanes is a partner with the law firm of Laws & Sarbanes, P.A., with a general practice focused primarily in civil litigation. He received a law degree from the Widener University School of Law and an undergraduate degree from Salisbury University. Mr. Sarbanes has served on the Board of Directors of the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce and as President of Life Crisis Center, an organization serving individuals impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse.

Governor O'Malley made five appointments to the **District Court for Baltimore City**.

David Brian Aldouby has spent his 21-year legal career serving as a public defender in Baltimore City. Since 2000, Mr. Aldouby has served as that office's Supervising Attorney for Early Resolution Court. He earned a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law and an undergraduate degree from Rutgers University.

Since 1994, **Judge Joyce Maezeppa Baylor-Thompson** has served on the Orphans' Court of Baltimore City, including as Chief Judge for the last thirteen years. She has also maintained a solo general practice since 1998, concentrating on domestic relations. Judge Baylor-Thompson earned a law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, a master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and an undergraduate degree from Morgan State University.

James "Jim" Green has worked for the Baltimore Police Department since 2002 in various capacities—as the Director of Government Affairs, as Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, and as Director of Special Projects where he assisted with the development of law enforcement operational policy and strategy. He also previously worked as a Special Assistant United States Attorney and an Assistant State's Attorney. He graduated from George Washington University's National Law Center and Dickinson College.

Flynn Marcus Owens maintains a solo practice as a criminal defense attorney, representing clients in state and federal courts, in trials and appellate proceedings. Previously, Mr. Owens served for twelve years in the Office of the Public Defender for Baltimore County. He earned a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law and an undergraduate degree from Towson University.

Diana A.E. Smith has spent her legal career serving in the State's Attorney's Office for Baltimore City. Since 2009, she has served as a Supervisor. She previously worked as a District Court Commissioner. Ms. Smith earned a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law and an undergraduate degree from Morgan State University.

For the **District Court for Charles County**, Governor O'Malley has appointed **Master Andrea R.S. Watkins**. Master Watkins has served as a Master for Domestic Relations and Juvenile Causes in the Circuit Court for Charles County since 2007. Prior to her service as a Master, she served as an Assistant County Attorney for Charles County and practiced family law. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and Mount St. Mary's College.

Governor O'Malley made two appointments to the **District Court for Montgomery County**

Eric John Nee has served for the past 15 years as an Assistant State's Attorney for Montgomery County, where he is currently assigned to the Major Crimes Division. Previously, Mr. Nee worked at the National Transportation Safety Board, both as the Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity office and an attorney advisor. He began his career as an Assistant State's Attorney in Prince George's County. Mr. Nee earned a law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and an undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Margaret Marie Schweitzer has spent her legal career with the State's Attorney's Office for Montgomery County, serving in many different capacities: as a member of the major crimes felony trial unit, as Chief of the District Court, as the liaison for Drug Court, and as the Director of Professional Development and Post-Conviction Remedies. She received her law degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and her undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.



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Governor O'Malley Announces \$20 Million in Cold Weather Energy Bill Assistance

February 24th, 2014

Annapolis, Md. — Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the release of an additional \$20 million to help lower-income Marylanders pay high utility bills resulting from recent extreme winter weather.

Working together, the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), the Department of Human Resources (DHR) and the Public Service Commission (PSC) will administer the benefit. The \$20 million in supplemental benefits will be made available to all income eligible households who apply for the Electric Universal Service Program in FY2014.

"Families should not have to choose between staying warm and providing for their families," said **Governor O'Malley**. "The efforts we are announcing today will help over 100,000 lower-income Marylanders stay warm and safe during this unusually cold winter."

Households who already have been approved for assistance as of July 1, 2013 will see the benefit automatically post to their account with no further action required by the customer. Applications are still being accepted for Marylanders who qualify for the program but have not yet applied. The supplemental benefit was made possible by a higher than anticipated award from the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as well as an increase in proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). DHR is also providing additional staffing to help administer this supplemental benefit.

Energy demands this winter have created a tremendous strain on Maryland families.

- The average temperature at Baltimore-Washington International Airport in January 2014 was 27 degrees – compared to 35 in January 2013. In Hagerstown, the difference was even more dramatic, with an average temperature of 25 degrees in January 2014 versus 34 in January 2013.
- Because of these colder temperatures, the amount of electricity used by an average house in some Maryland utility territories increased significantly over this same time last year. Depending on the type of fuel and furnace model, usage could increase as much as 50 percent. Stated another way, when the

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temperature outside is lower, more energy is required to maintain the same temperature inside your home. This is why a customer's bill increases during the winter even though the home thermostat stays constant or is lowered.

- Increased energy use can translate to an increase in energy bills – from an average of 7% in some utility areas to 30% or more in others.

"The Fuel Fund of Maryland commends Governor O'Malley for making it a priority to release additional funds at this time for Marylanders who are impacted the most by rising energy bills," said Mary Ellen Vanni, Executive Director of the Fuel Fund of Maryland. "Combined with the recent reduction in the duration of unemployment and other benefits, there is a compelling case for an immediate response through additional financial aid and additional staff to facilitate access to the funds."

Paula Carmody, head of the Office of People's Counsel, added, "Households across the state will face significant increases in their energy bills this winter due to the extremely cold weather and wholesale price increases. The supplemental federal LIHEAP funds and funds allocated from the State's RGGI proceeds will provide much needed assistance to households with limited financial resources. I applaud the Governor's efforts to dedicate these funds immediately to address this need and provide additional staffing resources to process assistance applications. I urge everyone who has a relative, friend or neighbor facing financial challenges with these bills to tell them about the available assistance for utility bills and encourage them to apply for assistance immediately."

Governor O'Malley has closely monitored Maryland's utilities to ensure that they are also being responsive to their customers' needs. All of Maryland's utilities, including Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco), BGE, Choptank Electric Cooperative, Columbia Gas of Maryland, Delmarva Power & Light, Potomac Edison, Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, and Washington Gas, as well as the State's propane, heating oil and other heating fuels distributors, are providing direct assistance to customers through various programs and payment plans. The PSC also issued an Order last week directing the utilities to appear on March 4, 2014 to discuss the status of bill payment and customer communications in light of the higher bills. Utility customers who face difficulty paying their bills are strongly encouraged to call their energy providers to discuss the options available to them.

Understanding that many Marylanders will want to help their neighbors during this challenging time, the Governor has worked with United Way of Central Maryland and United Ways across the State to create an opportunity for Marylanders to give the gift of energy. Donations will be distributed throughout the State and will help Marylanders who are struggling to keep their homes heated this winter. Please visit: www.uwcm.org/winter2014 or call (410) 895-1566.

Finally, MEA has developed a website with aggregated information about these programs, as well as answers to questions about the supplemental benefits. This can be found at: <http://energy.maryland.gov/Residential/assistance/EmergencyColdWeatherEnergyAssistance.htm>.



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Maryland Requests ESEA Waiver Extension for Teacher-Principal Evaluations

February 25th, 2014

Annapolis, Md. – Maryland is moving forward with new education initiatives to further strengthen teaching and learning statewide in the nation's top school system – implementing higher standards, better assessments and new teacher and principal evaluation systems. To ensure these important new education initiatives are successful, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) presented a plan to the State Board of Education today to request an extension of its implementation timeline from the U.S. Department of Education.

“Over the last seven years, we made the better choice to invest in Maryland's top-ranked schools, and today, we continue our support of educators and children by giving them the time they need to get this transition right,” said **Governor O'Malley**. “This waiver extension would allow Maryland to complete three important transitions – new standards, assessments and evaluations while being respectful of the demands on students, teachers and school leaders.”

The three-year process for implementing the new Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards, developed from the Common Core State Standards, began in 2010. Maryland is piloting new assessments using the online Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). The state's teachers and administrators also are learning a new evaluation system for improving teacher effectiveness and school leadership.

“Improving and ensuring fair evaluations for teachers and principals is perhaps the most difficult and important stage of this progression. We want to do this work well to accelerate student learning and to support teachers and school leaders during this transition, particularly as they learn to use these new tools for professional growth,” said **State Superintendent Lillian Lowery**.

Through its previous federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility request, MSDE obtained flexibility to avoid double-testing and hold schools harmless for one year from federal accountability sanctions when field testing new state assessments for the 2013-2014 school year.

The ESEA waiver extension application recognizes that school year 2014-15 is the

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baseline year for PARCC implementation and data from the second test administration in school year 2015-16 would be available to use in evaluations in 2016-17.

“The majority of Superintendents in Maryland support the language of the proposed flexibility waiver. We recognize that this is a fluid and dynamic reform that requires adequate time to refine the processes and the products that are being established for the teacher/principal evaluation models. The additional time will help to ensure that the evaluation systems are fair and valid measures designed to support effective teacher/principal practices and enhanced student learning.” said **Dr. Michael J. Martirano, Superintendent in St. Mary’s County and President of the Public School Superintendent Association of Maryland.**



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Governor O'Malley Highlights Expansion of Renowned K9 Corrections Unit

February 25th, 2014

Annapolis, Md. – Governor Martin O'Malley today pledged support for expanding Maryland's internationally recognized K9 Unit of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). The unit today graduated seven K9 teams plus a handler and dog trained for the Delaware Department of Correction.

"By making the choice to invest in better technology and coordination, we've driven down violent crime to 30-year lows and created stronger communities across Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "With over 800 phones detected since 2009, the K9 training program is a critical part of our strategy to drive down crime in correctional facilities. That's why we're building on that progress, investing over half a million dollars in the FY15 budget to expand the unit by seven positions."

For the last six years, the K-9 Unit has averaged close to 93,000 searches a year across the DPSCS system. The 49 dogs making up the Unit are trained to detect cell phones, drugs, tobacco, and other contraband. In the last two fiscal years, DPSCS K-9s have found almost 1,300 pieces of contraband, including 254 cell phones.

The O'Malley-Brown administration has strongly supported DPSCS in multiple areas, helping the Department improve technology, training, hiring, staffing, and intelligence gathering. This includes \$563,000 in the FY '15 budget to expand the Department's K9 Unit by seven positions. This means more dogs and handlers to work the entire state in the ongoing battle against contraband.

"Because contraband breeds violence, stopping it from getting into our institutions, and finding it if it does, will always be a top priority for this Department," said DPSCS Secretary Gregg Hershberger. "Especially over the last seven years, our K9 Unit has played a vital role in making our top priority a reality for DPSCS."

Today's graduation featured eight DPSCS K9 teams. Most of the dogs came from rescue centers, shelters, and animal control agencies. Some may have been euthanized but for the K9 Unit being able to transform them into successful detector dogs. At the end of the ceremony, the K9 teams demonstrated their expertise, with the dogs repeatedly finding contraband items, including hidden cell phones.

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An integral part of the State's effort to combat contraband inside the prison system, DPSCS' K9 Unit was among the first in the nation to breed and train its own cell phone detector dogs in house, saving tax dollars. As a result of their pioneering expertise, DPSCS K9 has trained dozens of state, national, and international law enforcement agencies on cell phone detection. These law enforcement agencies hail from across the globe, including Mexico, Israel, Canada, Haiti, Saudi Arabia, and Australia.



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State, Harford County Officials Announce Specialty Tin Manufacturer Plans Upgrade of Headquarters

February 28th, 2014

BALTIMORE, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley joined today with Harford County Economic Development to announce that the State has approved a \$535,000 conditional loan to the Independent Can Company in Belcamp. The loan comes from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development's Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund (MEDAAF) to assist the company with facility upgrades and new equipment for its headquarters and manufacturing plant. As part of the upgrade, the company plans to add an additional 25 employees by December 2018, and retain its existing workforce of 221 employees.

"By working with our partners in Harford County as well the leadership of Independent Can, we are preserving 221 jobs, creating 25 new jobs and ensuring that this company will continue to grow and invest in Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "Our most important priority continues to be creating and retaining the kinds of highly-skilled jobs that will help sustain Maryland's economy for today and for decades to come."

"Independent Can is an outstanding member of Harford County's manufacturing community," said Jim Richardson, Director of Harford County's Office of Economic Development. "Their strong management team has withstood the challenge from international competitors and through innovation, capital and human resource investments has expanded the company."

"We believe that manufacturing can not only survive, but thrive in the United States, and the support from Harford County and the State of Maryland will help us remain competitive globally," said Bob McClelland, Executive Vice President of Independent Can Company. "Our on-going investments in state-of-the-art technologies provide continuing opportunities and a genuine need for individuals with all levels of technical training."

Independent Can Company is known as a world leader in producing specialty tin cans and metal lithography. Founded in 1929, the family-owned business started in Baltimore City during the beginning of the Great Depression. In 1985, the Can Company moved from Baltimore to a 17-acre property in Belcamp, where it has a 370,000 square-foot facility. The company celebrates its 85th anniversary this year.

Releases

About DBED:

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. Because they are major economic generators, the Department also supports the Arts, film production, sports and other special events. For more information, visit www.choosemaryland.org.



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